

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 ARA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 /089 W  
-----030121Z 101495 /63

P R 021100Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8112  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0799

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR PINT PROP LA  
SUBJECT: MAY DAY IN VIENTIANE, 1977

SUMMARY: LPDR/LPRP CELEBRATED MAY DAY 1977 WITH A  
MODEST AND LOW KEY CELEBRATION MARKED BY A SPEECH BY  
SANAN SOUTTHICHACK, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC  
WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION, AN EARLY MORNING RALLY OF  
MASS ORGANIZATIONS, ATHLETIC EVENTS AND A CULTURAL  
PRESENTATION.

1. LPDR/LPRP CELEBRATED MAY DAY 1977 WITH A PROGRAM  
CONSISTING OF: A) AN ASSEMBLY OF MASS ORGANIZATIONS  
AT THE THAT LUANG EXPLANADE WHERE MINISTER OF  
COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION SANAN  
SOUTTHICHACK, WHO IS ALSO A CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER,  
MADE A SPEECH: B) SPORTS EVENTS AT THE VIENTIANE  
STADIUM: AND C) AN ARTISTIC PRESENTATION AT THAT LUANG.  
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THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE INVITED THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS  
TO ALL EVENTS. THE RUSSIANS AND THE CUBANS TURNED OUT  
IN GREAT NUMBERS. NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR AND VIET-  
NAMESE AND CAMBODIAN CHARGES WERE PRESENT AT ASSEMBLY  
OF MASS ORGANIZATIONS AND LATTER TWO ALSO ATTENDED  
ATHLETIC EVENTS. WE DID NOT SEE CHINESE CHARGE.

2. HEAVY RAIN AND WIND AT 0300 TORE DOWN SOME OF THE BANNERS PLACED ABOUT THE CITY. PEOPLE BEGAN ASSEMBLING AT THAT LUANG AT 0600 FOR SANAN'S SPEECH WHICH WAS SCHEDULED FOR 0700. HEAVY RAIN STARTED AGAIN AT 0630 AND CONTINUED UNTIL 0730, THOROUGHLY SOAKING THE MEMBERS OF THE MASS ORGANIZATIONS WHO WERE, I WOULD GUESS, ABOUT 25,000 IN NUMBER. THOUSANDS MORE IN THE REAR RANKS SCATTERED AND TOOK SHELTER IN PAGODAS AND OTHER BUILDINGS WHEN THE RAIN STARTED.

3. SANAN WAS INTRODUCED BY MRS. THONGCHINE SENESATHIT AND SPOKE FOR ALMOST FORTY MINUTES. THE GIST OF HIS SPEECH WAS: THE LAO WORKERS AND LABORING PEOPLE WERE HAPPY TO JOIN WORKERS AND LABORING PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IN CELEBRATING MAY DAY--"A DAY FOR DISPLAYING FORCE AND EXPRESSING THE UNITY AMONG WORKERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD." HE HAILED THE VIETNAMESE AND KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLES, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE SRV APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE UN. HE REITERATED THE LAO "UNCHANGED STAND REGARDING OUR DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN AND PRESERVE THE NORMAL TIES OF FRIENDSHIP" (BETWEEN LAOS AND THILAND) BUT DENOUNCED "ALL PROVOCATIVE CHALLENGING SCHEMES AND HOSTILE ACTS COMMITTED BY THE THAI REACTIONARIES WHO ARE SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING THE EXILED LAO REACTIONARIES TO COUNTER THE LPDR." HE SUPPORTED THE "THAI PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE, DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL PROGRESS" AND ALSO EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR "THE JUST STRUGGLES BEING WAGED BY THE PEOPLES IN THE VARIOUS SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES..."  
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HE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE DPRK AND DENOUNCED THE UNITED STATES "FOR STUBBORNLY REFUSING TO WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA WITH THE HOPE OF PERMANENTLY DIVIDING KOREA." HE WENT ON THE HAIL "LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA" AND CALLED FOR A PALESTINIAN STATE. HE DESCRIBED LAOS AS "THE OUTPOST OF WORLD SOCIALISM IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION" AND SAID THAT "WE MUST CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT OUR NATIONAL DUTY IN COORDINATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL DUTY."

4. SLOGANS FOR THE DAY, PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS, WERE:

- A. LONG LIVE THE SPIRIT OF MAY 1ST\*
- B. LONG LIVE THE SUCCESS OF MARXIST LENINIST DOCTRINE\*
- C. WORLD REVOLUTION WILL SURELY BE VICTORIOUS\*
- D. LONG LIVE THE FEELING OF BROTHERHOOD AMONG LAO WORKERS AND WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WORLD\*
- E. LONG LIVE THE FEELING OF BROTHERHOOD AMONG LAO

WORKERS, VIETNAMESE WORKERS AND KAMPUCHEAN WORKERS\*

5. THE SPORTING EVENTS WERE UNREMARKABLE, CONSISTING OF CHILDREN'S GAMES AND A SOCCER GAME IN WHICH THE ARMY TEAM DEFEATED THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS TEAM 3 TO 0. WE SKIPPED THE ARTISTIC PRESENTATION, WHICH WAS DESCRIBED AS UNOFFICIAL.

6. IN ADDITION TO SANAN SOUTTHICHACK, LPDR/LPRP DIGNITARIES PRESENT AT MEETING OF MASS ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDED PHOUMI VONGVICHIT, PHOUNE SIPRASEUTH, KHAMSOUK KEOLA, KHAMSOUK SAYASENG, SISAVAT KEOBOUN-PHAN, KHAMPHAY BOUPHA, KHAMPHENG BOUPHA, NOUPHAN SITHPHASAY, AND MAHA KOU SOUVANNAMETHY. THERE WAS NO SIGN OF SOUPHANNOUVONG, KAYSONE PHOMVIHANE, OR NOUHAK.

7. COMMENT: COMPARED TO PREVIOUS MASS DEMONSTRATIONS  
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ON OCTOBER 12, 1975 AND DECEMBER 2, 1976, THE 1977  
OBSERVATION OF MAY DAY WAS MODEST AND LOW KEY.  
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## Message Attributes

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